

What is the starting point of temptations?

Mark 7:20-23: "What comes out of a person is what defiles him. For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

Why must we be watchful?

Ephesians 6:12: "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly places."

1John 2:16: "For all that *is* in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world."

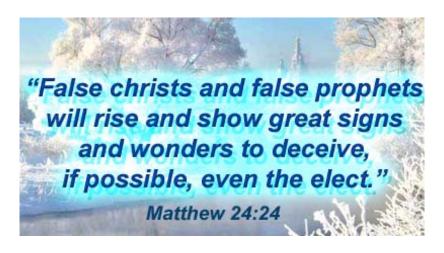
James 1:15: "When desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death."

Therefore:

1Peter 5:8: "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devilwalks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour."

Colossians 2:8: "Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ."

How vigilant am I to reject the temptations of the world?



False preachers are a most evil source of deception. How does the Word of God warn us against them?

Matthew 7:15: "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves."

1John 4:1: "Do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world."

Why?

2Corinthians 11:13: "For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, masquerading as apostles of Christ.

2Peter 2:1, 3: "There will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, *and* bring on themselves swift destruction." "By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words."

Therefore:

1Timothy 6:3-5: "If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, *even* the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, who suppose that godliness is a *means of* gain. "From such withdraw yourself."

Do I abide in and follow Christ, the Word of God, so I am not deceived by false preachers?

"For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality."

What does the Bible say about sexual immorality?

1Corinthians 6:9-10: "Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, will inherit the kingdom of God."

1Thessalonians 4:3

What's more?

Matthew 5:27-28: "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart."

Leviticus 20:13: "If a man lies with a male as he lies with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination."

The warning:

Jude 7: "Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire."

Therefore:

Colossians 3:5: "Put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry."

1Peter 2:11: "Abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul."

1Corinthians 6:18: "Flee sexual immorality."

Why?

1Corinthians 6:13: "The body *is* not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body."

Am I drawn to the sexual immorality of the world, or do I rather stand firm to follow Christ?



How does God adjudge pride in a person's heart?

James 4:6: "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

Proverbs 8:13: "Pride and arrogance and the evil way and the perverse mouth I hate."

Isaiah 5:21: "Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes."

How then should we live humbly to please God?

Jeremiah 9:23-24: "Let not the wise *man* glory in his wisdom, let not the mighty *man* glory in his might, nor let the rich *man* glory in his riches; but let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and knows Me, that I *am* the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth."

Therefore:

Philippians 2:3: "Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself."

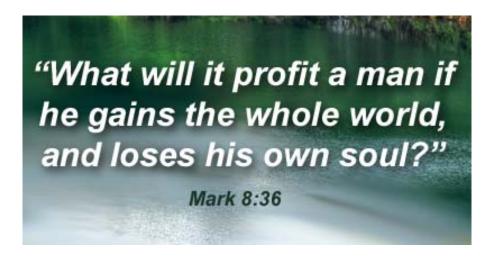
Romans 12:3: "For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith."

James 4:10: "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up."

Why?

Proverbs 16:18: "Pride *goes* before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall."

Do I understand that if I harbor pride in my heart, it is an abomination to God?



Money has become the god of this world, drawing people to seek it's power for worldly pleasures and lusts.

What did Jesus teach us on the love of money and possessions?

Mark 10:23: "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!"

Luke 12:15: "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses."

Matthew 6:19-21: "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven." "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Matthew 6:24: "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."

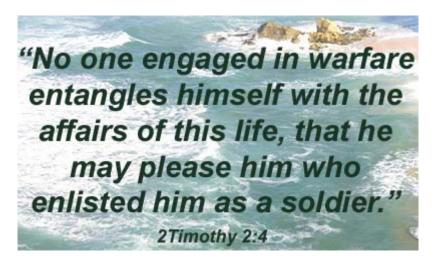
What's more?

1Timothy 6:9-10: "Those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all *kinds of* evil."

Therefore:

Hebrews 13:5: "Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

Am I following Christ, or has money become my god?



The enemy will always try to keep our minds busy so as to make us focus on the world rather than God. As such, politics, opinions and dissensions tend to draw people to hatred as opposed to seeking and trusting God.

What should our attitude be as believers and followers of Christ?

1Thessalonians 4:11-12: "Aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you, that you may walk properly toward those who are outside, and *that* you may lack nothing."

1John 2:15: "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him."

Why?

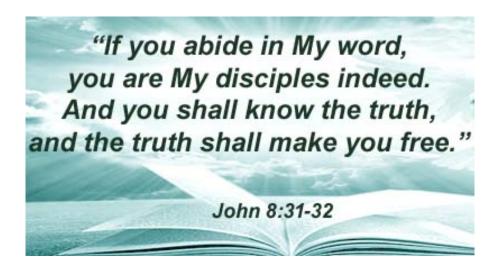
James 4:4: "Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God."

Proverbs 26:12: "Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? *There is* more hope for a fool than for him."

Therefore:

Psalm 1:1-2: "Blessed *is* the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight *is* in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night."

WHO, or what is the focus of my life, Christ or the world?



How can we ensure we aren't deceived by the world so we follow Christ and abide in Him?

Romans 12:2: "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

James 1:22: "Be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."

2Timothy 2:22: "Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart."

Hebrews 3:13: "Exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin."

Ephesians 5:11: "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them."

2Corinthians 4:2: "Not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God."

Therefore:

Galatians 5:16: "Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh."

Proverbs 4:23: "Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it."

Why?

Philippians 3:20: "For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ."

Clear enough?



How seriously does the Word of God warn us about being deceived, fooled and overcome by the world?

Ephesians 4:14: "We should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting."
Why?

James 4:4: "Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God."

As such:

Revelation 21:8: "The cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

The reason Jesus warned us:

Matthew 24:4-5: "Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many." Therefore:

Galatians 6:7-8: "Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life."

1Thessalonians 5:21: "Test everything that is said. Hold on to what is good."

Am I on my guard all the time so I am not deceived by the world?